(c) what is the number of the farm aircraft which are considered to be beyond economical repairs and how many of these have served their normal life, stating the manner in which they are proposed to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) The Directorate of Agricultural Aviation had acquired 35 aircraft from the HAL at a cost of about Rs. 3.77 crores. Of these, only 24 aircraft are in the fleet at present. Of these 24 aircraft, 8 are serviceable, 6 are beyond economic repairs and the remaining 10 are grounded for repairs/overhaul. Three each of these aircraft were grounded in the years 1975 and 1977 and two each in the years 1976 and 1978. The repairs have not been possible due to non-availability of spares.

(c) The number of aircraft beyond economical repairs is 6. None of these aircraft has served its normal life of agricultural flying. The manner of their disposal has not been decided.

Budget for Research on Road Safety

4013. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total budget for Research on Road Safety; and

(b) what is the number of projects which have been funded so far, indicating the total sum involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Collection of statistics on road accidents, analysis thereof through road safety cell and the setting up of an institute to train the trainers for driving schools, road safety week are the projects designed to cater to road safety research for which during 1988-89, a provision of Rs. 57 lacs exists.

Besides these, the research projects to improve vehicles design and bus-bodies have also been undertaken. The expenditure involved in these research projects has been of the order of Rs. 10.62 lakhs.

Departmental Promotion to the post of Joint Commissioner (Academic) of KVS

4014. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of Departmental Promotion Committee was held on 28th July, 1988 to find out a suitable candidate for the post of Joint Commissioner (Academic) of Kendriya Vidayalaya Sangathan;

(b) if so, whether the Committee have found such a candidate; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Since the proceedings of the Departmental Promotion Committee are confidential, final decision in the matter should be awaited.

Cargo theft at Indira Gandhi International Airport

4015. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been taken against the officials involved in the theft of Rs. 1.5 crore Cargo at Indira Gandhi International Airport during August, 1986;

(b) if so, what is the number of staff/officers punished in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to contain the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Six charge-sheets have been filed by the IGI Airport Police in the Court of the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, New Delhi against 15 persons, including two IAAI officials alleged to have been involved in the clandestine removal of Cargo from the IGIA Cargo Terminal during August, 1986. The trial would now proceed in the Court according to law.